Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission Public Statement on October 2021 News Reports

Recent news reports refer to confusion expressed by classroom educators regarding what books about the Holocaust they should make available to students. Senate Bill 1828, which was passed in 2019, establishes a statewide, mandatory Holocaust Remembrance Week (HRW) for all K-12 Texas public and charter schools, authorizes the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission (THGAAC) to develop or approve any resources to be used in Texas classrooms for HRW, and calls on each district to determine which of those resources are appropriate for different student age groups.

The next Holocaust Remembrance Week is set for January 24-28, 2022. The THGAAC website makes readily available the list of approved resources (books, lesson plans, etc.), as well as guidelines for best practices in the classroom. District administrators who strive to familiarize their educational communities with these parameters will provide classroom educators the necessary support to proceed with confidence in their Holocaust instruction.

Educators across the state should also be aware that the THGAAC offers free services, including assistance in instructional planning, facilitation of educator workshops, and in-person or virtual presentations to students (including Q&A).

<u>Contact the THGAAC</u> or <u>request a THGAAC speaker</u>.